

SITUATION REPORT NO. 34

INCIDENT NO. 99-009

DATE: September 10, 1999 TIME: 2:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Storms and flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: On September 9, Devils Lake measured 1446.95 feet at Creel Bay. Based on existing wet soil conditions, normal precipitation and evaporation rates the outlook for Devils Lake is to rise slowly but remain below 1447.5 for the remainder of 1999. The National Weather Service indicates that a peak elevation projection for the year 2000 would be premature due to the uncertainties associated with future precipitation.

On August 16-17, the level of Devils Lake was at 1447.1 feet. During that time period, minor amounts of water trickled from Devils Lake across the divide to Stump Lake.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Salvation Army (1997 flood) application deadline is 12/1/99.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The N. D. Department of Human Services is assisting those affected by the disaster in the following manner:
 - Establishing a Crisis Counseling Program that currently provides service to school age children primarily in rural communities. There have been over 10,000 contacts made to date during the crisis counseling program.
 - Providing application forms by the end of September for the newly created Childrens Health Insurance Program.
 - Focusing on the education of elderly population. A door to door public education program is scheduled for Ward and Bottineau counties the week of September 13. The program is designed to assist the elderly to better understand the disaster application process.

The Mediation Division of the Department of Agriculture is encouraging farmers to apply for loans now rather than wait until later this winter.

Program Updates for FEMA-1279-DR-ND

Staff for the state Public Assistance Program has delivered approximately \$5 million to date. The program has received a total of 293 applications from 41 counties, 138 cities, 14 electrical cooperatives, 28 school districts, 13 park districts, 22 water resource boards, five Indian reservations, seven state agencies and 24 others to include private non-profit organizations providing essential governmental services.

North Dakota Job Service has received 6,714 claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. As of September 9, \$9,266,383 in benefits has been paid to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, migrant workers and other self-employed individuals who lost income because of the disaster.

To date, 10,662 North Dakotans have registered for assistance through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) teleregistration center. Of those 8,358 have applied for Disaster Housing Assistance. To date, FEMA has paid \$12,147,936 in benefits under the Disaster Housing Program. Of that amount, \$3,976,352 has been designated for expanded habitability measures designed to mitigate future flood damages. Those measures include interior drain systems, sump pumps, gutters and downspouts, basement fills and land sloping work.

The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has received 5,203 applications and approved \$654,865 in benefits to date. The average grant amounts to approximately \$500.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has sent 8,447 applications to disaster victims and has administered \$5,895,700 in loans as of September 7.

The State Hazard Mitigation Team met on September 8 and 9 to rank and prioritize applications. 57 applications totaling more than \$11 million have been received for the \$4.7 million currently authorized for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

FEMA/State emergency management officials have extended the deadline until 10/1/99 for individuals to apply for state and federal disaster assistance for damage that occurred between March 1 and July 19. (Special Note* - only the application period has been extended, not the incident period which is 3/1/99 to 7/19/99.)

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Red Cross, Salvation Army, consulting engineers and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), state agencies as required in State Emergency Operations Plan.
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director